

ORIGIN/ACTION

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State, Washington

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REMAN
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

DATE: January 25, 1963

FROM : American Embassy, Bangkok

SUBJECT : Evaluation of NIS Program

REF : Dept CA-6275

Following are the Embassy's comments on the NIS program:

1. The NIS has been primarily used at this Embassy for the orientation of new officers and background information for U.S. officials of SEATO. In this connection, the suggestion has been made by a number of officers that it would be much more useful if individual sections or portions of sections could be declassified so that they might be studied outside the office (perhaps some form of looseleaf binder would make this possible). If this were done it might also be possible to make certain sections available to personnel who do not have access to classified material, such as USOM contract employees.

2. It is suggested that greater effort be made to brief other agencies about the NIS. A military planning section recently required the type of information in Chapters IV, V and VI, but was not aware that it was available in the NIS until called to its attention. Similarly, USOM education officers were unacquainted with Section 43.

3. In view of Thailand's preoccupation with the situation in neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, and the growing importance of Bangkok as a regional center, the Embassy anticipates that critical developments in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, or Malaya might occur which would make it most useful to have available NIS studies for these countries. Even in the absence of critical developments, the location of SEATO headquarters in Bangkok and the Embassy's responsibilities for discussing the situation in other Southeast Asian countries at SEATO meetings and with diplomatic colleagues of other

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Contents and Classification Approved by:

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Clearances:

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State Dept. declassification instructions on file

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Airgram A-522
from Bangkok.

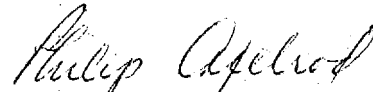
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missions and Thai Govt. officials make it desirable to have the NIS for these countries on hand.

4. For most Embassy purposes, section summaries are of marginal value, but Chapter I (Brief) is useful for orientation purposes. Some chapters seem overly detailed, but for the most part a happy balance appears to have been struck. While Chapters IV-VI are used most frequently, other chapters are also of value; Chapter II would be especially useful in the event of a deteriorating security situation.

5. The Embassy believes that the coordinated inter-departmental program is advantageous in that duplication of effort is avoided and the resulting products are regarded as representing a compilation of the most authoritative information available in Washington to the participating agencies.

For the Ambassador:



Philip Axelrod
Counselor for Political Affairs

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